

## Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



RECEIVED  
JUL 13 1933  
Department of Agriculture

HOUSEKEEPERS' CHAT

THURSDAY, July 13, 1933.

(FOR BROADCAST USE ONLY)

Subject: "How to Treat Your Summer Clothes." Information from the Bureau of Home Economics, U. S. D. A.

--O--

Some women's clothes get a limp, damp, lifeless look as soon as hot weather sets in. Other women manage to keep a fresh, trim, well-dressed look, no matter what the weather. The difference often depends on the way clothes get treated in the wash tub or on the ironing board. Of course, hot days mean extra laundering and pressing. If you do these jobs well, you can keep that fresh new look on your organdie frocks, your summer crepes, your crinkly cottons, or your linen sport clothes. Success depends on knowing the little tricks of handling the different summer fabrics.

Take organdie, for example. There's a crisp sheer fabric, very popular for dressy frocks this season and for collars, cuffs, and accessories. Organdie is easy to press and easy to tub. That's fortunate because it wrinkles easily. By careful pressing you can keep your organdie fresh a long time without washing. Press it with a warm, never a hot iron. You can dampen the badly wrinkled spots a little as you go. Hang your dress up carefully after wearing. A dress cover slipped over it will ward off dust and keep the organdie clean longer. Then, when the material is really soiled, wash it as you would any other delicate fabric. Make a lukewarm suds of neutral soap and soft water. Squeeze or shake the garment in it. Then rinse well in two or three lukewarm rinse waters. Be careful not to rub, wring, or twist. Squeeze the water out by pressing the wet garment in a big ball between your hands. Now roll it up in a big, soft Turkish towel to absorb the excess moisture. In a few minutes it will be ready to iron. Organdie dries so quickly that you'll get best results by ironing it when very damp. Better keep a damp cloth over the unironed part of the dress as you press, so the air won't dry it out too rapidly. Iron first the parts of the dress that are less apt to wrinkle as you handle the garment.

Many dark as well as light dresses this season look cool and summery because of their organdie bows, sleeves, cuffs, or frilly collars. You can have these always spotless, if they are easy to remove for laundering. If you own a couple of sets of these accessories, they can take turns at keeping your dress fresh and ready to go. At the end of a hard day, just remove the soiled collar, cuffs, or bow. Then bring on the freshly laundered supply. A few minutes of basting with needle and thread and you have a rejuvenated dress. These sheer little additions to your summer wardrobe wash out easily in a basin of lukewarm suds. If the material doesn't have a permanent finish or if you want them to have extra body and stiffness, you can dip them in a little bowl of starch water. I can't tell you exactly how much starch you should use. That depends on the starch, and also on how stiff you want the fabric. Generally the rule is from a teaspoon to a tablespoon of starch to 4 cups of water. Sheer fabrics naturally require less starch than heavier materials. After starching, roll up the articles in a towel. Let them stand perhaps half an hour and then press them. For a shiny finish press organdie on the right side. For a dull finish, press on the wrong side.



So much for the way to treat the new sheer fabrics. Now what about the new heavy sports fabrics? Well, the new crinkly or nubby materials need different treatment from organdie or other sheers. For example, you always press them on the wrong side over a soft pad. Pass the iron lightly over the slightly dampened fabric. These materials don't wrinkle easily but when they're wet they draw up and seem to shrink. They will go back to their original size if you iron them carefully. Wash them carefully. Use no starch. Squeeze out excess moisture. Dry by rolling the dress in a towel or by throwing it over a line or bar. Never pin or stretch it on the line. When the dress is only slightly damp, pull the material gently but firmly with the weave. Then lay it right side down on a soft pad and iron it lightly on the wrong side. Keep stretching the material carefully as you iron.

Another fabric that needs ironing on the wrong side is the embroidered material. Lots of these abroad this summer.

Linens? Here's still a different problem. Linen needs frequent pressing to keep its trim, smart, tailored look. If you press linen suits often, you'll put off the day of laundering. Have a bowl of water and a piece of cheesecloth right beside your ironing board ready to dampen stubborn creases as you press. Dampen all pleats slightly and keep pressing them until they're thoroughly dry. That's one secret worth remembering about linen. Be sure you iron it dry all the way through. That takes a little extra time, of course, and it takes a medium iron. Too hot an iron may scorch the surface before it has entirely dried the fabric. Sleeves on a linen suit or dress offer a problem. How to press them without making an ugly crease all the way down the side? There's a trick to this, a simple trick, too. Just let part of the sleeve extend over the edge of the board and don't press close enough to the folded edge to make a crease

As for the laces and some of the very rough silks, many of these come out best if you don't iron them at all after washing. Just coax them gently into shape, pin them to the ironing board and dry with no pressing. Or you can stretch them flat on a big Turkish towel and dry that way.

Many listeners have asked recently some special questions about colored fabrics. Next week in our very next talk on clothes, we'll discuss the color problem.

Tomorrow we'll answer some canning questions.

